

Public Field Programs

— CEDAR RIVER WATERSHED —



WELCOME TO SEATTLE’S WATERSHEDS

The Cedar River Watershed Education Center is only 35 miles east of Seattle, yet it feels a world away. The Center is tucked into the Cascade foothills, on the shore of Rattlesnake Lake, facing Rattlesnake Ledge. Owned and operated by Seattle Public Utilities, it is the gateway to the Cedar River Municipal Watershed.

Since 1901, the Cedar River Watershed has been Seattle’s primary source of water. In 1964, the South Fork of the Tolt River was tapped to meet the needs of a growing population. Today, more than 1 million people get their water from these combined sources.

Even though unsupervised public access is strictly prohibited, the City offers affordable guided adventures for you to experience your water at its source.



Seattle
Public
Utilities



CEDAR RIVER
WATERSHED
EDUCATION
CENTER

19901 Cedar Falls Rd SE
North Bend, WA 98045

206.733.9421 | 425.831.6780

CRWprograms@seattle.gov
www.seattle.gov/util/crwec

CENTER EXHIBIT HOURS

April – October
Tuesday – Sunday
10AM to 5PM

November – March
Tuesday – Sunday
10AM to 4PM

Closed Mondays & City Holidays

HERITAGE LIBRARY HOURS

The library is staffed by volunteers, so please call ahead if you plan to visit.

RATTLESNAKE LAKE HOURS

The Rattlesnake Lake Recreation Area is open 6am to dusk all year. Day use only.

NEWSLETTER

Read stories you won't find anywhere else. Published 7 times each year.

Sign-up here:
www.seattle.gov/util/crwec



PROGRAM REGISTRATION

PLAN AHEAD

Registration begins on April 1. Space is limited, so make your reservations early.

COST

Prices vary depending on the program. Payment is due in full prior to the program and can be paid online, in person, or by mail. Cash, check, and credit cards are accepted.

CANCELLATIONS

To receive a refund or credit, cancellations must be made at least two weeks prior to the program.

PREPARATION

Many programs happen in remote areas of the watershed, far from indoor facilities. You may encounter cold temperatures, rain, mud, insects, heat, and other inclement conditions. Please come equipped with food (snack/lunch), water, appropriate footwear (hiking/ waterproof), rain gear, and any other provisions (such as hiking poles) required for you to stay warm, dry, and comfortable for the duration of the program. Attendees need to be in reasonably good physical condition and prepared for a day outside that includes short hikes of moderate intensity.



The Cedar River Watershed Education Center connects people to the source of Seattle’s drinking water and its unique cultural and natural history, inspiring confidence, stewardship, and sustainability.

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Rattlesnake Lake Recreation Area includes the ledge, a distinct rock formation chiseled by ice and time, and the sparkling turquoise water of the lake. Each year thousands of people enjoy hiking, swimming, and picnicking in this park setting, but many don't know that it's owned and managed by Seattle Public Utilities.

A popular 2-mile trail leads to a stunning view at the top of Rattlesnake Ledge. Below, the waters of Rattlesnake Lake hides the secrets of

Moncton, a town accidentally flooded in 1915.

A scenic 1-mile paved trail connects Rattlesnake Lake Recreation Area to the Education Center. Along the way, signs interpret the complex natural and cultural history of the area.

PHOTO A beautiful calm morning at Rattlesnake Lake Recreation Area with Mt. Si in the distance. The stumps are all that remain of Moncton, the town that once stood where the lake is now.

The Cedar River Watershed Education Center is located along the shores of Rattlesnake Lake. Built in 2001, its architecture reflects the history of the area and is a model of sustainability — from the sod roofs to the recycled rubber flooring.

Sweeping views of Rattlesnake Ledge can be seen from the observation decks, while native plants flourish in the unique Rain Drum Garden.

The Welcome Room creates a relaxing and comfortable atmosphere to browse books and watch children at play. At the front desk, staff are available to answer questions.

The free, award-winning *Water is Magic Exhibits* create a joyful learning experience. Delve deep into Watershed history in the Heritage Library.

PHOTO Visitors enjoy the Rain Drum Garden.



SIGNATURE TOURS

THE WATERSHED TOUR



The 2.5-hour tour includes driving through the historic townsite of Cedar Falls, walking across Masonry Dam, and seeing Chester Morse Lake. Along the way, your guide will share stories and pictures that help shed light on the landscape. Walking distances of 1/4 mile across uneven surfaces is necessary on this tour.

AGES: ADULTS, KIDS AGES 10+
COST: \$10/ADULTS; \$5/SENIORS (55+) & YOUTH (10-18)

DATE	DAY	TIME
July 11	(Saturday)	10:00 - 12:30
July 12	(Sunday)	10:00 - 12:30
July 18	(Saturday)	10:00 - 12:30
July 19	(Sunday)	10:00 - 12:30
July 25	(Saturday)	10:00 - 12:30
July 26	(Sunday)	10:00 - 12:30
August 1	(Saturday)	10:00 - 12:30
August 2	(Sunday)	10:00 - 12:30
August 8	(Saturday)	10:00 - 12:30
August 9	(Sunday)	10:00 - 12:30
August 15	(Saturday)	10:00 - 12:30
August 16	(Sunday)	10:00 - 12:30
August 22	(Saturday)	10:00 - 12:30
August 23	(Sunday)	10:00 - 12:30
August 29	(Saturday)	10:00 - 12:30
August 30	(Sunday)	10:00 - 12:30
September 5	(Saturday)	10:00 - 12:30
September 6	(Sunday)	10:00 - 12:30



FAMILY WATERSHED TOUR



This is a 1-hour version of The Watershed Tour. Popular with multi-generational families, it's bound to delight young and curious minds with short attention spans. Includes a drive through historic Cedar Falls and a walk on Masonry Dam. Walking distances of 1/4 mile across uneven surfaces is necessary on this tour.

AGES: ALL AGES
COST: \$5/SEAT; KIDS ON LAPS ARE FREE

DATE	DAY	TIME
July 11	(Saturday)	2:00 - 3:00
July 12	(Sunday)	2:00 - 3:00
July 18	(Saturday)	2:00 - 3:00
July 19	(Sunday)	2:00 - 3:00
July 25	(Saturday)	2:00 - 3:00
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August 30	(Sunday)	2:00 - 3:00
September 5	(Saturday)	2:00 - 3:00
September 6	(Sunday)	2:00 - 3:00

GROUP WATERSHED TOUR



Get a unique taste of the Watershed with this tailor-made tour for organized groups of 9 or more.

AGES: ADULT - GROUPS ONLY
COST: \$5/PER PERSON; FREE FOR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
DATES: CONTACT US TO INQUIRE ABOUT AVAILABILITY



WATERSHED EXHIBIT EXPERIENCE



Flow through the water cycle and journey through habitats and history in the *Water is Magic Exhibits*. Great for groups with young kids or limited mobility.

AGES: ALL AGES - GROUPS
COST: FREE
DATES: CONTACT US TO INQUIRE ABOUT AVAILABILITY

EXPERIENCE SEATTLE'S WATERSHEDS



1. Seattle is 1 of only 6 cities in the U.S. with such a highly protected source of water. Get the whole story and see Chester Morse Lake, pictured here, on ***The Watershed Tour***, on page 6.
2. Today, instead of logging, the forest is being restored for healthy drinking water and habitat. See for yourself on ***Adventures in Forest Ecology***, page 13.
3. Hundreds of plant and animal species, like this lungwort lichen, can be found in the watershed. Discover more about them at ***Lichens: Mystery Fungi of the Forest***, page 12.

4. One hundred years ago, Seattle built the Masonry Dam to keep up with a rapidly growing city, but it destroyed a nearby town. Find out why at the ***100th Anniversary of Rattlesnake Lake***, page 10.
5. The Cedar Falls Power Plant was built in 1904. Visit what's left of this company town on ***Twilight Towns of the Watershed: Cedar Falls***, page 11.
6. Before entering 2,000 miles of pipe, water flows through a vast network of wetlands and creeks. Visit the best of them on ***Quiet Water: Watershed Wetlands***, page 12.

CULTURAL HISTORY

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF RATTLESNAKE LAKE



Join us for a tour to celebrate the anniversary of the formation of Rattlesnake Lake. We will explore the Rattlesnake Lake shore by foot and the Masonry Dam by van. Learn how the thirst for power changed the landscape and the impacted people that once called this place home.

AGES: ADULTS, KIDS AGES 10+

COST: FREE

DATES: APRIL 4 (SATURDAY) 1:00 - 3:00
APRIL 5 (SUNDAY) 1:00 - 3:00



NW TIMBER COMMUNITY SONGS & STORIES



Enjoy local musical traditions performed by Snoqualmie Valley artist, Bob Antone, and guests. Connect to the past through songs about Pacific Northwest history and industry: old-time logging, railroad folklore, and maybe even tales of Bigfoot and other strange creatures of the northwest woods. Audiences young and old will find their toes tapping with these old-time melodies.

AGES: ALL AGES

COST: FREE

DATES: JUNE 21 (SUNDAY) 2:30 - 4:00

RAILROAD HISTORY TREASURE TOUR



Take a trip back in time with Clay Antieau, Seattle Public Utilities scientist and Watershed rail historian. This tour seeks out some of the remaining structures, grades, and legacies created when railroads were king. The highlights of this field tour include a wooden trestle and the former Cedar Falls, WA switchyard. Participants must be able to handle about 1 mile of hiking over uneven terrain.

AGES: ADULTS, KIDS 10+

COST: \$15

DATES: JUNE 27 (SATURDAY) 9:00 - 1:00

TWILIGHT TOWNS OF THE WATERSHED: TAYLOR



Delve into the rich history of Taylor, a town that now lies hidden beneath the forests of the Cedar River Municipal Watershed. Taylor was world-famous for its clay products. A Seattle Public Utilities naturalist will guide you on this walking tour, revealing some of the stories that made Taylor so special. Walking on uneven terrain is required. **Please note:** directions to the meeting location in Maple Valley will be given upon registration.

AGES: ADULTS, KIDS 10+

COST: \$10

DATES: SEPTEMBER 19 (SATURDAY) 1:00 - 3:00
SEPTEMBER 26 (SATURDAY) 1:00 - 3:00



TWILIGHT TOWNS OF THE WATERSHED: CEDAR FALLS



Immerse yourself in the proud heritage of bringing water and light to the people of Seattle. Founded in 1901, the City-owned town was a vibrant community for decades. See some of the original homes and streetlights that still remain. A Seattle Public Utilities naturalist will guide you on this walking tour where you will hear stories of those who lived and worked in Cedar Falls.

AGES: ADULTS, KIDS 10+

COST: \$10

DATES: SEPTEMBER 27 (SUNDAY) 1:00 - 3:00
OCTOBER 11 (SUNDAY) 1:00 - 3:00

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SYMBOLS >



Bus Tour



Van Tour



Watershed-based



Center-based



Hiking Off Trail



Free Special Event



Adults



Families

NATURAL HISTORY

QUIET WATER: WATERSHED WETLANDS



Journey into the watershed with Clay Antieau, Seattle Public Utilities scientist and local authority on native plants. Highlights of the day include Eagle Ridge Meadow, a 40-acre fen; 14 Lakes, a strange “kettle” wetland; and a forested bog in the Rock Creek riparian wetland complex. Participants must be able to hike 2 - 3 miles of moderate intensity over uneven terrain.

AGES: ADULTS, KIDS AGES 12+

COST: \$15

DATES: MAY 9 (SATURDAY) 9:00 - 4:00

LICHENS: MYSTERIOUS FUNGI OF THE FOREST



Join Professor Katherine Glew, PhD to learn about the fascinating lichens of the forest. After a short overview of lichens in the classroom, venture into the watershed to find them. The last part of the day will be spent identifying and studying specimens collected in the field.

AGE S: ADULTS

COST: \$20

DATES: JUNE 14 (SUNDAY) 10:00 - 3:00

ADVENTURES IN FOREST ECOLOGY



Spend the day with watershed ecologists Rolf Gersonde, PhD and Bill Richards. They will help you discover the hidden connections in the forests and share how we restore biodiversity and habitat in young forests of the Watershed. Explore differences in wildlife habitat and other ecosystem qualities between young and old forests in the Rex Basin.

AGES: ADULTS, KIDS AGES 12+

COST: \$15

DATES: SEPTEMBER 19 (SATURDAY) 9:00 - 4:00

FASCINATING FUNGI



Come explore the fascinating fungi of the Cedar River Watershed. This one-day class provides an overview of fungi, the characteristics of fungi used for identification, and their roles in forest ecology. The class is perfect to begin your exploration of these amazing organisms found all around us. Please note that this class does not focus on edibility.

AGES: ADULTS

COST: \$30

DATES: OCTOBER 17 (SATURDAY) 9:00 - 2:00

OCTOBER 18 (SUNDAY) 9:00 - 2:00

AMONG ANCIENTS: OLD GROWTH FORESTS



Enjoy a day in old growth forests with Clay Antieau, Seattle Public Utilities scientist and local authority on northwest native plants. Hikes will include trips into some of the best lowland old growth, including the Lost Creek old growth and the ancient forests of Findley Lake. Participants must be able to hike 2 - 3 miles of moderate intensity over uneven terrain.

AGES: ADULTS, KIDS AGES 12+

COST: \$15

DATES: AUGUST 1 (SATURDAY) 9:00 - 4:00

AUGUST 15 (SATURDAY) 9:00 - 4:00



PAUL BANNICK PROGRAMS: OWLS & WOODPECKERS



Paul Bannick, award-winning photographer and author, will be offering two programs on the same day. In the morning, go on a visual exploration of the life of the owl, through all four seasons. In the afternoon, examine the diversity of woodpeckers in North America through story and images. Both promise to delight and inform.

AGES: ADULTS

COST: \$15 EACH OR \$25 FOR BOTH

DATES: OWLS NOVEMBER 7 (SATURDAY) 11:00 - 1:00

WOODPECKERS NOVEMBER 7 (SATURDAY) 2:00 - 4:00

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Free Special Event



Adults



Families

FAMILY FRIENDLY

MOTHER’S DAY



This relaxing day celebrates all the mothers in our lives, as well as in the Watershed. Bring the entire family to enjoy tea, coffee, and snacks while strolling the grounds of the Education Center and savoring the spectacular views of Rattlesnake Ledge. Discover fun tidbits about moms – both human and wild – that have raised their families in the watershed.

AGES: ALL AGES
COST: FREE
DATES: MAY 10 (SUNDAY) 12:00 - 4:00



JUNIOR NATURALISTS



Hey kids, bring an adult to explore nature as a naturalist! We will hear like deer, rustle like raccoons and bounce like bobcats. Be ready to walk 1.5 miles and dress for the weather as we discover signs of animals on land and in water.

AGES: 4 - 10 YEARS (WITH AN ADULT)
COST: \$5 PER CHILD
DATES: JUNE 13 (SATURDAY) 10:30 - 12:30
OCTOBER 3 (SATURDAY) 10:30 - 12:30



KNEE HIGH NATURALISTS



Take a morning stroll from the Center along Rattlesnake Lake with a naturalist to discover rocks, birds, plants, and things. Paced for short legs and shorter attention spans, this program will explore shapes and colors found in nature. Up to two kids may be registered per adult.

AGES: 18 - 36 MONTHS (WITH AN ADULT)
COST: \$5 PER CHILD
DATES: JULY 23 (THURSDAY) 9:30 - 10:30
AUGUST 27 (THURSDAY) 9:30 - 10:30

CEDAR RIVER SALMON JOURNEY



See spawning salmon along the Cedar River this fall! At Landsburg, learn how some salmon are allowed to enter our drinking water. This is a rare opportunity you don’t want to miss. **Please Note:** All viewing sites are along the Cedar River in the Renton and Maple Valley area.

AGES: ALL AGES
COST: FREE
DATES: OCTOBER WEEKENDS 11:00 - 4:00



WONDERING ABOUT WILDLIFE



Grab your family and friends for a day of wild delight, both inside and out, at the Center. This free, hands-on event is packed with wildlife activities that will interest all ages. With so much to experience, bring a lunch and stay for the whole day.

AGES: ALL AGES
COST: FREE
DATES: DECEMBER 30 (WEDNESDAY) 10:00 - 3:00

WINTER WEEKENDS



Grab your family and friends for an afternoon of fun, both inside and out. Naturalist-led activities include stories, crafts, and hikes. Programs are available most Saturdays and Sundays during the months of January and February.

AGES: ALL AGES
COST: FREE

DATE	DAY	TIME
January 2	(Saturday)	1:30 - 3:30
January 3	(Sunday)	1:30 - 3:30
January 9	(Saturday)	1:30 - 3:30
January 10	(Sunday)	1:30 - 3:30
January 16	(Saturday)	1:30 - 3:30
January 17	(Sunday)	1:30 - 3:30
January 23	(Saturday)	1:30 - 3:30
January 24	(Sunday)	1:30 - 3:30
January 30	(Saturday)	1:30 - 3:30
January 31	(Sunday)	1:30 - 3:30
February 6	(Saturday)	1:30 - 3:30
February 7	(Sunday)	1:30 - 3:30
February 13	(Saturday)	1:30 - 3:30
February 14	(Sunday)	1:30 - 3:30
February 20	(Saturday)	1:30 - 3:30
February 21	(Sunday)	1:30 - 3:30
February 27	(Saturday)	1:30 - 3:30
February 28	(Sunday)	1:30 - 3:30

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SYMBOLS >

Bus Tour Van Tour Watershed-based Center-based Hiking Off Trail Free Special Event Adults Families



Come see for yourself!

It's closer than you think

The Cedar River Municipal Watershed is the primary source of clean, reliable tap water for the Seattle area. This hidden gem is closed to unsupervised public access but through guided tours, exhibits, and events, you can discover the story behind the scenery.



NEWSLETTER Read stories
you won't find anywhere else.
Published 7 times each year.

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VISIT

I-90 EXIT 32
Only 35 miles from Seattle

Education Center **OPEN**

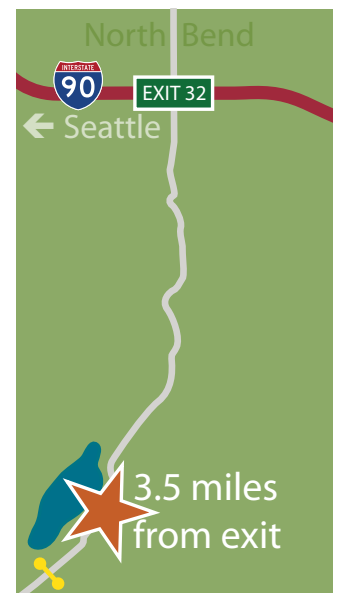
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*Closed Mondays & City
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Rattlesnake Lake Recreation Area

OPEN
All Year
6AM to Dusk



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MORE INFO



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